United Nations A/C.3/69/L.13

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 October 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 26 (b)
Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Bolivia (Plurinational State of):* draft resolution

World Youth Skills Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009, by which it proclaimed the year commencing on 12 August 2010 the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, and its resolution 65/312 of 26 July 2011, by which it adopted the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on youth: dialogue and mutual understanding,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the Supplement thereto, as contained in the annexes to those resolutions respectively, and acknowledging that the World Programme of Action and the Supplement thereto provide Member States with a useful policy framework and practical guidelines for improving the state of youth,

Recalling further its resolution 54/120 of 20 January 2000, by which it declared 12 August as International Youth Day on the basis of the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon, from 8 to 12 August 1998,

Recognizing that the majority of the world's youth live in developing countries and that development constraints pose additional challenges to youth owing to their limited access to resources, education and training, health care, employment and broader socioeconomic development opportunities, and therefore that United Nations entities and Member States should take into account these development constraints when designing and implementing the post-2015 agenda, including their programmes on youth, to ensure that benefits reach young people living in all countries,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Observing that youth development is obstructed by the economic and financial crisis, in particular by the responses to it in the countries initially most affected, as well as by challenges brought about by the food crisis and continued food insecurity, the energy crisis and climate change,

Noting that Member States have an important role in meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, and that in the ongoing efforts of some Member States to implement their pledges to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, many of the issues directly related to youth have yet to be addressed, particularly in the least developed and developing countries,

Recognizing that ongoing serious global financial and economic challenges carry the possibility of undoing years of hard work and gains made in relation to the debt of developing countries, and further recognizing the need to assist developing countries in ensuring long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate,

Recognizing also the commitment of the Secretary-General to prioritize youth, his support for the concerns of youth and his call to deepen the United Nations focus on youth and develop an action plan across the full range of United Nations programmes, including employment, entrepreneurship, political participation, human rights and education,

Recognizing further that developing the skills of youth in different fields would enable them to contribute positively to a range of economic activities in society and thereby to participate actively in economic development processes,

Recognizing that the development of the skills of youth in order to enable them to gain access to decent work and better employment opportunities should be one of the concrete steps in addressing the issues of growing unemployment and underemployment, while skills development should be, inter alia, an important pillar of global strategies addressing the concerns of youth,

Reiterating that access to quality formal and non-formal education, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to acquire the relevant skills and to build their capacities for employability and entrepreneurial development and gain decent and productive work, and calling upon Member States to take necessary actions to ensure that young people have access to such services and opportunities,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, noting the need for sustainable development strategies to proactively address youth employment at all

levels, and in this regard recognizing the need for a global strategy on youth and employment building on the work of the International Labour Organization,

Concerned that the high number of unemployed youth at the global level, estimated at 74.5 million in 2013, the majority of them living in the developing world, continues to rise and to undermine economic development,

Recalling its resolution 68/130 of 18 December 2013, in which it urged Member States to address high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal employment by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to improve the chances of integrating youth into sustainable labour markets and increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and in this regard requested donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate,

Noting that the proposal of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals recognized the importance of skills development and vocational education and training, especially in proposed goal 4, entitled "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", and goal 8, entitled "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all",

Recognizing that youth participation is important for development, and urging Member States and entities of the United Nations system, in consultation with youth-led organizations, to explore new avenues to promote full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and initiatives and in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Noting the call made in the Colombo Declaration on Youth, adopted on 10 May 2014 at the World Conference on Youth 2014, held in Colombo, for the United Nations to support a dedicated day for skills development that would benefit global youth, which reflects the need for continuous attention to the development of skills that empower youth to gain access to full and quality employment,

1. *Decides* to designate 15 July as World Youth Skills Day;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations as well as civil society, including youth-lead organizations, to commemorate World Youth Skills Day in an appropriate manner, including through education, campaigns and public awareness-raising activities;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.